

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating a printing system for parallel processing a print job with a plurality of processing nodes into a printer-ready format for printing the print job, said processing nodes communicating with a virtual disk transfer system, comprising:

splitting the print job into a plurality of job chunks;
assigning the job chunks to respective processing nodes for processing the job chunks into the printer-ready format; and
monitoring available space in the virtual disk transfer system.

2. The method defined in **claim 1**, further comprising the step of preventing selected chunks from being added to the virtual disk transfer system when the monitored available space falls below a predetermined threshold.

3. The method defined in **claim 2**, wherein the splitting step is performed by a splitter and further comprising the step of withholding chunk destinations from the splitter.